

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 are amended, and claims 13 and 14 are new. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for failing to claim statutory subject matter. Claim 8 is amended to obviate this rejection.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 8 is amended to obviate this rejection.

The Office Action, on page 4, rejects claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111939 to Kondo et al. (hereinafter "Kondo"). Additionally, the Office Action, on page 6, rejects claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,316 to Luo et al. (hereinafter "Luo"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Kondo teaches many of the features as positively recited in at least claims 1, 7 and 8. However, Kondo does not teach an image retrieving device including at least a keyword proposing section for proposing the keyword so as to display on a display the keyword which relates to the object which is acknowledged by the object acknowledging section, as recited in at least amended claims 1, 7 and 8.

The Office Action asserts that Kondo, in Fig. 8 step S813, discloses the keyword proposing section for proposing a keyword. Kondo, in paragraph [0084], discloses in step S813 and S815 a name being entered corresponding to the face image, where the face image and the entered name are correlated with each other by registering in a face directory. In addition, Kondo, in Fig. 9, discloses a keyword being entered into the system. However, the keyword entered in Fig. 9 is not the same as the name entered in step S813. Therefore,

Kondo does not teach an image retrieving device including at least a keyword proposing section for proposing the keyword so as to display on a display the keyword which relates to the object which is acknowledged by the object acknowledging section, as recited in at least amended claim 1.

Luo fails to disclose or suggest the above feature, and therefore, fails to make up for the above noted deficiencies of Kondo.

For at least the above reasons, Kondo can not reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all the features recited in claims 1, 7 and 8. Further, claims 2-6 and 9-12 would also not have been suggested by the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claims 1, 7 and 8, respectively, as well as for the patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

New claims 13 and 14 are patentable based on their dependency from independent claims 7 and 8 respectively, as well as for additional features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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